IDW
ISSUE
3
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Strawberry Shortcake™

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The Stuff Dreams Are Made Of

WRITTEN BY: Georgia Ball
ART BY: Amy Mebberson
COLORS BY: Fernando Peniche
LETTERS BY: Tom B. Long

Yes to the Dress

WRITTEN BY: Kristen Gudsnuk
ART BY: Nico Peña
COLORS BY: Jordi Escuin
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EDITED BY: David Hedgecock
PUBLISHER: Ted Adams

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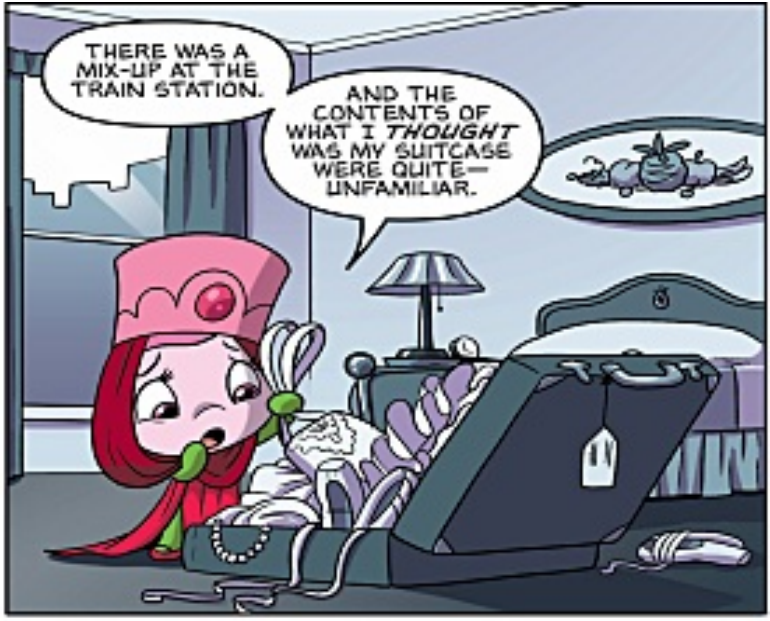
THE BERRY BITTY CAFÉ...
YOU KNOW THE PLACE, RIGHT ACROSS FROM THE DANCE STUDIO? NO, YOU'RE THINKING OF THE LEMON SALON. ANYWAY...
EVERYTHING WAS GOING SMOOTHLY, AND I WAS PERFECTLY CONTENT—
The Stuff Dreams Are Made Of
Written by: Georgia Ball
Art by: Amy Mebberson
Colors by: Fernando Peniche
Letters by: Tom B. Long
—UNTIL ME WALKED INTO MY LIFE.
STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE?
THAT'S ME!

J.P. FRANCIS, SENIOR SALESMAN FOR KITCHENPERFECT INC.
NICE TO MEET YOU, BUT I'M NOT REALLY IN THE MARKET FOR ANYTHING RIGHT NOW.
I CAN SEE WHY, WHEN YOUR BUSINESS IS DOING SO WELL.
BUT I'M NOT HERE TO REPLACE ANYTHING, I'M HERE TO HELP YOU EXPAND!
EXPAND?
FOR INSTANCE, WITH ONE OVEN, YOU CAN BAKE ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY, YES? BUT WITH *TWO*...
IMAGINE! MOUNDS OF MUFFINS... STACKS OF PIES! ENOUGH TO START A DELIVERY SERVICE, MAYBE AN ONLINE STORE.
AND TAKE A LOOK AT THE KITCHENPERFECT 2600 STAINLES-STEEL ROCKET BLENDER WITH TRAVEL LID™! GUARANTEED TO CUT YOUR CHOPPING TIME IN HALF.
IT PURÉES TO THE BEAT OF YOUR FAVORITE PLAYLIST.
OOOOOO...
KEEP THE BROCHURE. I'LL COME BACK TOMORROW.
THINK ABOUT IT OVERNIGHT. CONSIDER IT CAREFULLY—

"—THIS DECISION COULD MAKE ALL YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE."
HE'S A SMOOTH TALKER.
WITH A SLICK BROCHURE.
I DON'T KNOW, STRAWBERRY. DO YOU REALLY NEED ANOTHER OVEN?
I DIDN'T THINK SO BEFORE HE CAME IN HERE... BUT NOW I'M NOT SURE, ORANGE.
I LIKE MY CAFÉ THE WAY IT IS, BUT MAYBE I'D BE EVEN HAPPIER IF I GREW MY BUSINESS.
I'LL NEVER KNOW IF I DON'T TRY.
I THOUGHT TAKING SOME TIME TO THINK WAS GOOD ADVICE...
BUT AS THE HOURS TICKED BY...
I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I WANT TO DO.
I WILL *NOT* GO TO SLEEP WITHOUT MAKING A DECISION.
NOT EVEN IF IT TAKES ALL NIGHT...
PATSY PERSIMMON

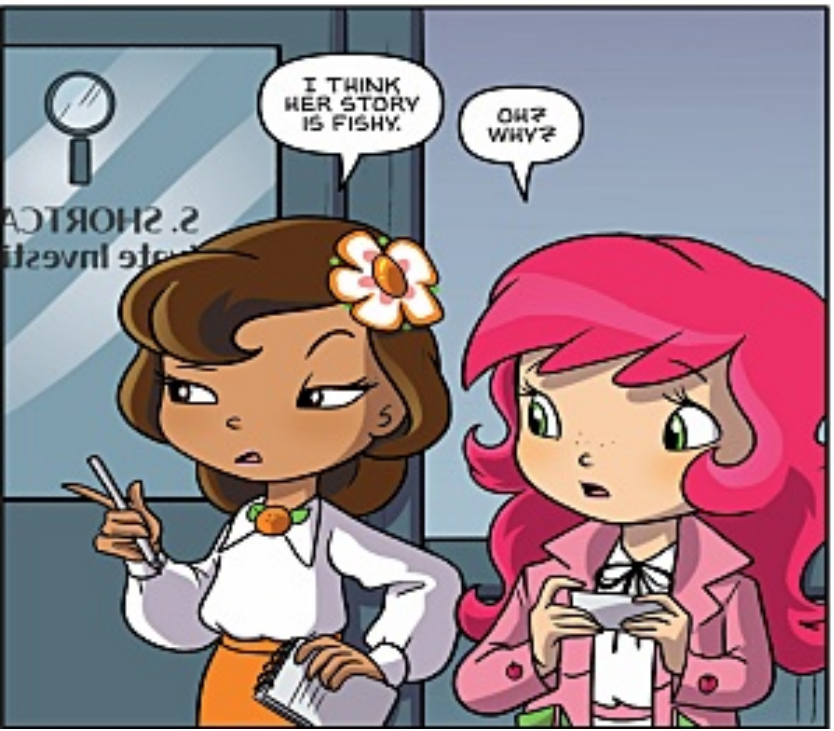
I NEEDED TO GIVE THIS PROBLEM MY FULL ATTENTION...
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ
WAKE UP, STRAWBERRY... WE HAVE A CLIENT!
SNERK
WE HAVE A WHAT-NOW?
SOMEONE HAS A CASE FOR OUR STRUGGLING DETECTIVE AGENCY?
DON'T TELL ME IT'S BEEN SO LONG YOU'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT A CLIENT LOOKS LIKE.
CASE CLOSED
I'LL GO GET HER.
A QUICK GLANCE AROUND THE OFFICE CLUED ME IN...
I'M A DETECTIVE...
LOOK AT ALL THE MYSTERIES I'VE SOLVED! LIKE THE TIME WE HELPED... THAT BEE! AND THAT TIME WE— FOUND A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK?
WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO FIND A *LITERAL* NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK? COULDN'T THEY JUST GET A NEW ONE?
WE CAN REMINISCE LATER...
CASE CLOSED
THIS IS LADY BERRY.

SHE LOOKED LIKE THE TOP HALF OF AN APPLE PIE— STRICTLY UPPER CRUST.
BUT LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING.
CASE CLOSED
THANK YOU FOR SEEING ME ON SHORT NOTICE. I'M DESPERATE TO FIND MY MISSING SUITCASE!


THERE WAS A MIX-UP AT THE TRAIN STATION.
AND THE CONTENTS OF WHAT I THOUGHT WAS MY SUITCASE WERE QUITE— UNFAMILIAR.

PERHAPS THIS PLAYBILL MIGHT HELP? I FOUND IT IN A LEOTARD.
A BALLERINA? THAT SHOULD NARROW IT DOWN.
I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH LUCK LOCATING THE YOUNG LADY, MYSELF. THAT'S WHY I NEED A PROFESSIONAL.

WE'LL GET RIGHT ON IT! WHERE CAN WE REACH YOU?
MY HOTEL IS ON THE CARD.
I DO HOPE YOU LOCATE MY SUITCASE... IT ISN'T TERRIBLY VALUABLE...
BUT I WAS RATHER ATTACHED TO IT.


I THINK HER STORY IS FISHY.
OH? WHY?

LADY BERRY SAYS SHE'S HAVING TROUBLE FINDING PRIMA PUDDING—
—BUT SHE'S HEADLINING RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET!
PRIMA PUDDING
NOW APPEARING

AS WE STEPPED INTO THE NIGHT AIR, IT WAS ALL COMING BACK TO ME...
THIS WAS MY CITY...
NOW APPEARING
THURS · FRI · SAT · SUN
TICKETS
MY BERRY, BITTY CITY.
EVERY NOON
THAT BALLERINA SURE KEPT US ON OUR TOES...
THAT STORY IS ALL COCK-A-DOODLE!
I LOST MY SUITCASE AT THE TRAIN STATION. I DON'T HAVE ANYONE ELSE'S, BUT LET ME KNOW IF YOU FIND MINE.
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, THERE'S ANOTHER PERFORMANCE COMING UP!
I'M SORRY WE TOOK UP SO MUCH OF YOUR TIME.
SHE KNOWS MORE THAN SHE'S TELLING!
SHHHHH...
MADAME SOUR
WHO IS SHE CALLING?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE BAD NEWS.

THE CASE WAS ABOUT AS CLEAR AS LAST WEEK'S PEA SOUP...
YUCCA
MORE THAN ONE PERSON IS IN ON THIS PLOT, ORANGE.
WE NEED TO WARN LADY BERRY!
LADY BERRY? HAVEN'T SEEN HER FOR HOURS—
—YOU MAY TRY HER ROOM IF YOU LIKE.
STEVE
WE WENT THERE TO GIVE LADY BERRY A MESSAGE...
ROOM 217...
WHY IS THE DOOR OPEN?
GASP
...BUT SOMEONE ALREADY HAD.

THE SOUP THICKENS!
WHAT IF SHE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED?
THEN WE HAVE A CASE WITHOUT A CLIENT!
MAYBE SHE'S JUST A REALLY MESSY GUEST...
WHAT?
WHOOOSH
THIS ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, I ASSURE YOU.
THAT'S GOOD BECAUSE IT TOTALLY LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE SEARCHING MY DESK.

THE FROG WAS AS SHADY AS A PARASOL IN AUGUST, BUT WE HEARD HIM OUT.
MY NAME IS J. CHURRO, AND I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE YOU'VE SEEN MY SUITCASE.
THE OWNER OF THE SUITCASE EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR?
THAT DEPENDS... WHO IS LOOKING?
I THINK WE'D BETTER KEEP THAT TO OURSELVES FOR THE MOMENT.
AS YOU WISH. SHOULD YOU FIND IT, PLEASE GIVE ME A RING.
I'M OFFERING A SUBSTANTIAL REWARD—THAT I DID *NOT* JUST MAKE UP ON THE FLY.
SO WHO'S TELLING THE TRUTH?
I WONDER IF ANYONE IS? MAYBE WE SHOULD—
EEEEKKKK!!!
WHAT DID YOU SEE?
A SHADOW IN THE WINDOW— IN A MASK!

FOR A CREEPY CREEP IN A CLOAK, THAT GUY COULD REALLY MOVE!
THERE HE IS!
HE WENT INTO THAT RESTAURANT!
Cocoa Banana
GOT AN EMPTY ICEBOX, NO SWEETS TO BE HAD...
'CUZ THAT'S HOW IT GOES WHEN GOOD BERRIES GO BAD!
DO YOU SEE HIM ANYWHERE?
LET'S TRY BACKSTAGE.
YEAH, GOT AN EMPTY ICEBOX, NO SWEETS TO BE HAD...
I GOT THOSE BAD BERRY BLUES!

WE SHOULD START WITH THE BASEMENT.
UMPH
I'M SO SORRY ABOUT ALL OF THIS— WOULD YOU LIKE A CRULLER? WE HAVE MAPLE WITH SPRINKLES!
WE DIDN'T PULL THE DETECTIVE IN HERE FOR A SNACK, SERGEANT. WE'RE LOOKING FOR A SUITCASE.
THE DONUT PATROL! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
SO IS EVERYONE ELSE IN TOWN. WHAT'S IN IT, ANYWAY?
THAT'S CLASSIFIED.
SERGEANT SOUR DOESN'T MEAN TO BE RUDE.
MAYBE IF YOU TOLD US MORE ABOUT WHO YOU'RE WORKING FOR...
YOU KNOW I CAN'T DISCLOSE INFORMATION ABOUT MY CLIENT, SWEET.
OH REALLY?
ARE YOU SURE YOU EVEN KNOW WHO YOUR CLIENT *IS*?

THE MASKED SHADOW HAS THE SUITCASE, AND HE'S GETTING AWAY!
MANAGER
AFTER HIM!
COME ON...
S.S. RHUBARB

SWISH
BAM
OOF.
GASP
LET'S SEE WHO THIS MASKED SHADOW *REALLY* IS...
LADY BERRY!

WHY ARE YOU IN A MASK?
I WENT INTO HIDING AFTER *SOMEONE* RANSACKED MY ROOM.
SO YOU WERE THE SUITCASE THIEF ALL ALONG?
CERTAINLY NOT! IT'S *MY* SUITCASE, AFTER ALL.

WHAT A PILE OF PUDDING CUPS, THAT'S *MY* SUITCASE!
OUR SUITCASE! *I'M* THE ONE WHO SEARCHED HER ROOM FOR IT.
SO *THAT'S* WHO YOU CALLED AT THE THEATER!

THAT SUITCASE BELONGS IN *OUR* CUSTODY!
FOR WHAT REASON EXACTLY?
THAT'S CLASSIFIED, TOO.
RIIIIIGHT...

I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS THING REALLY BELONGS TO—
—BUT I'M NOT HANDING IT OVER TO ANYONE UNTIL I KNOW WHAT'S IN IT!

WHAT IS IT, STRAWBERRY? WHAT ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE AFTER?
IT'S...
IT'S... UH...
SIGH
THE NEXT DAY I GAVE ORANGE BLOSSOM THE RUNDOWN...
—AND THAT WAS THE WHOLE DREAM. I OPENED THE SUITCASE AND POOF! I'M BACK IN BED.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY PUT TOO MUCH CHILI PEPPER IN THEIR SPICY COCOA MUFFINS BEFORE BEDTIME AGAIN.
GUILTY... BUT I'D STILL LIKE TO KNOW WHAT WAS IN THAT SUITCASE.
IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANYTHING, DEPENDING ON WHO OPENED IT.
YOU SAID EVERYBODY IN TOWN WAS AFTER IT... SUCCESS MEANS DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
THAT'S RIGHT...
I JUST NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT SUCCESS MEANS TO ME!

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE...
GOOD MORNING, STRAWBERRY!
I ASSUME YOU'VE MADE YOUR DECISION, YES?
I HAVE.
I HAVE THE PAPERWORK ALL DRAWN UP. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SIGN.
THE DECISION IS "NO."
NO?
I'M HAPPY WITH THE PACE MY BUSINESS IS GROWING AT NOW.
I'LL BUY ANOTHER OVEN WHEN AND IF I REALLY NEED ONE.
—BUUUT I'LL KEEP THIS BROCHURE. I MIGHT NEED A NEW BLENDER THIS SUMMER.
OF COURSE... PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CALL IF YOU DO.
I THINK YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, STRAWBERRY.
ME TOO. I GUESS I JUST NEEDED TO SLEEP ON IT!
End.

THANKS FOR HELPING ME, STRAWBERRY! DOUBLE THE DRESSES IS DOUBLE THE WORK, BUT DRESSING TWINS IS SO MUCH FUN! I CAN SEE IT NOW: LITTLE MATCHING HATS—
UM... NO.
Yes to the Dress
Written by: Kristen Gudsnuk
Art by: Nico Peña
Colors by: Jordi Escuin
Letters by: Tom B. Long
I DON'T DO "MATCHING."
I WANT THIS ONE.
I WOULD APPRECIATE THIS DRESS, RASPBERRY!
THAT IS, STRAWBERRY, IF YOU ARE NOT TOO BUSY...
DON'T WORRY, SWEET GRAPES! I'VE GOT RASPBERRY'S BACK.

WELL? HOW DO YOU LIKE THE DRESS?
I DON'T WANT THE PRAISE TO GO TO YOUR HEAD, BUT...
...THIS DRESS IS PERFECT, AND YOU ARE A FASHION GENIUS.
THANK YOU!
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I DID SUCH A GOOD JOB PICKING OUT A DESIGN, THOUGH. I'M SURE SWEET GRAPES'S DRESS IS JUST...
...HIDEOUS.
STRAWBERRY! IT'S *GORGEOUS!* IT'S...

THE SAME DRESS?
THE SAME DRESS?!! HOW— HOW COULD YOU—
SORRY ABOUT MY SISTER, RASPBERRY. THE DRESSES ARE VERY PRETTY.
SOUR GRAPES?
SHE PROBABLY JUST CHOSE THAT DRESS TO MESS WITH ME. PERFECT LITTLE SWEET GRAPES.
SOUR GRAPES? ARE YOU OKAY?

LEAVE ME ALONE.
NO.
IT'S JUST... IT'S NO FAIR. EVERYONE ALWAYS GROUPS ME WITH SWEET GRAPES. I WANT TO BE... DIFFERENT. *SPECIAL*.
BUT YOU ARE DIFFERENT ALREADY. AND IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF YOUR CLOTHES.
MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED THAT I'VE GOT A *TWIN*.
BUT ISN'T BEING YOURSELF MORE IMPORTANT THAN BEING DIFFERENT FROM SWEET GRAPES? IF YOU TRY SO HARD TO BE DIFFERENT, YOU'RE ACTUALLY BASING YOUR IDENTITY ENTIRELY OFF YOUR SISTER.
WHOA.
LIKE, IF YOU DON'T LET YOURSELF HAVE FUN BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE *DIFFERENT*, YOU'RE ONLY HURTING YOURSELF.
SO... I GET TO WEAR THAT AWESOME DRESS AFTER ALL?
UH... YEAH.
End.

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(Make sure to put **Strawberry Shortcake** in the header!)

Postal mail to:
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c/o Strawberry Shortcake
IDW Publishing
2765 Truxtun Road
San Diego, CA 92106

THUMBPRINT COOKIES

Porcupine Peak is a long way away, so it was nice of you to come down and help with my latest recipe. I'm glad your berry birds left a bunch of feathers, otherwise I wouldn't know who to thank. You see, I've been working on my biscuit ball recipe for some time. They had a touch of tasty and a dash of delicious, but they were missing something. I just couldn't figure out what.

You must have agreed they needed some work. When I left them next to an open window while I played hide and seek with Pupcake and Custard, you made some improvements. When I got back and saw that someone had smooshed all the balls in the center, I was very surprised. You were so thorough about it, you got every single one! If I wasn't a berry upbeat person, it might have bummed me out, but then I had a great idea.

The dimple in each cookie was perfect for filling. I put a different color jam in each cookie, one for each of my fantastic friends. Because you helped me fix this tricky recipe, I even made a purple one for you.

Thanks again,
Strawberry

RECIPE

- 1 3/4 cups all purpose flour
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 8 Tablespoons unsalted butter (1 stick)
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon cold milk
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

Some jam, whatever kind you like, or different kinds.
Extra sugar for sprinkling

1) Have your assistant preheat the oven to 400 °F.
2) Combine the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt together in a large bowl.
3) Chop the butter into little pieces on a cutting board, then add to the dry ingredients. Make sure your hands are nice and clean, then rub the butter pieces in the flour with the tips of your fingers. Keep finding blobs of butter and rub them into smaller pieces until the mixture looks like crumbs and there are no big chunks.
4) In a separate small bowl, beat the egg, milk and vanilla until they are smooth and combined.
5) Add almost all of the wet ingredients to the dry and stir. We want a soft dough that is just wet enough to form a ball, but we don't want a sticky ball. If it is sticky, add a bit of flour, if instead there is dry flour that won't combine, add the rest of the liquid ingredients until it sticks together as you stir.
6) Put a piece of parchment paper on a baking tray. Spray with a light amount of cooking oil, or grease with butter.
7) Divide the dough into 16 pieces.
8) This is my favorite part. Take each piece between your palms and roll it into a ball, and put them on the baking tray with an inch in between them.
9) Now, take your thumb and dip it in some flour. Now, use your thumb to smoosh the center of each ball so there is a little pit in the center. Make sure you don't push all the way through, you want a cute dimple that you can fill with jam.
10) Use a small spoon and add a blueberry sized blob of jam into the center of each bun. Don't use a runny jam. If you want, like me, you can use different colored jams, lemon curd, or even chocolate-nut spread.
11) Have your assistant put the tray in the oven, and bake in the oven for 10 minutes. Turn the heat down to 350 °Fand bake for five minutes more.
12) Watch your cookies carefully, you don't know who could be trying to sabotage them! When they have turned a nice golden brown, tell your assistant to remove them from the oven right away.
13) When your assistant tells you the pan isn't too hot, sprinkle a little sugar on the cookies as they cool. Then remove them from the baking sheet with a spatula and put them on a cooling rack. I usually can't resist a warm cookie, but these ones are much better cool.

That's all we have time for this month.
We'd love to hear from you!

Send us your Shortcake selfies, well wishes, and baking recipes so we can print them! Make sure you mark any emails or letters with 'Okay To Print' somewhere. Address is at the top of the previous page!

Having a Berry Fun Time,

David Hedgecock
Managing Editor

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Ted Adams here. I'm going to be your monthly guide through the IDW/Top Shelf checklist, pointing out our big hits and bringing your attention to some gems that you might otherwise miss.

Kevin Eastman and I have been friends for longer than either of us would like to admit so it was a particular treat for me when IDW picked up the rights to publish *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* comics back in 2011. Kevin's been an integral part of our creative team for the entire run—co-writing the books with **Tom Waltz** and providing covers for every issue. This month our regular series reaches issues #59—making it one of the longest-running comic series in stores today.

June 3rd sees the release of Paramount's *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows* and we've got a new Turtles mini-series that will be fun for fans new and old. **Ben Bates** and **Dustin Weaver** are writing the five-issue *Bebop & Rocksteady* mini-series that will ship weekly throughout June. Ben and Dustin are joined by a great group of artists—**Sophie Campbell**, **Giannis Milonogiannis**, **Damian Couceiro**, **Nick Pitarra**, and **Ryan Browne**—and Nick Pitarra has turned in five amazing covers that make one enormous TMNT image. Kevin is also doing a rare variant cover for the first issue.

While we're talking about Kevin, I hope if you're ever in the San Diego area, you'll check out IDW's **San Diego Comic Art Gallery**. Curated by Kevin, the gallery has his replica studio—filled from floor to ceiling with TMNT memorabilia and the things that inspire Kevin—as well as a series of regularly rotating exhibits. In June, we're going to be featuring **Berkeley Breathed** and *Bloom County*.

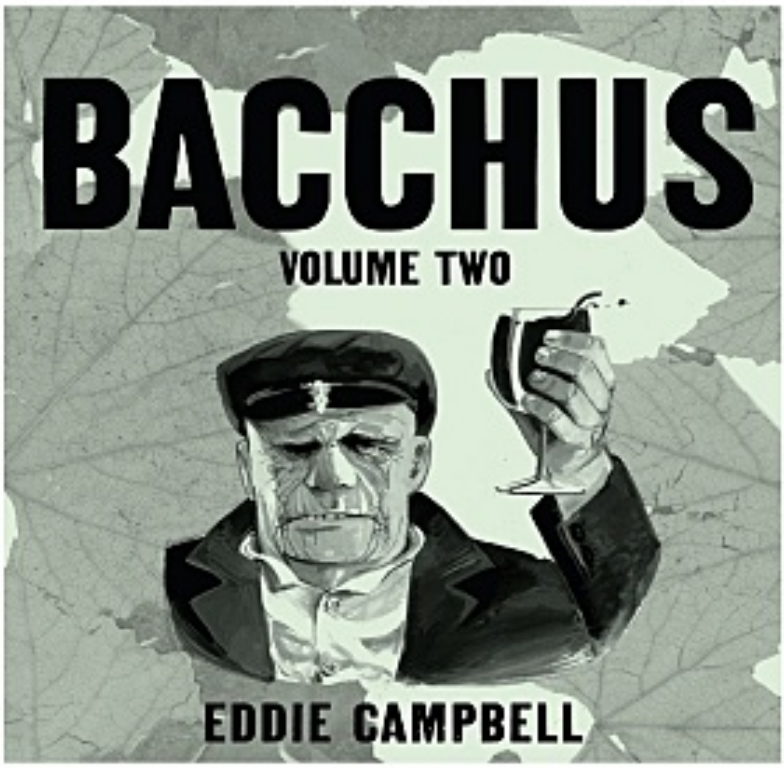
While there isn't a new Transformers movie this year, June sees the launch of *Transformers: Till All Are One* by **Mairghread Scott** and **Sara Pitre-Durocher**. In our regular ongoing *Transformers* series, Optimus Prime is busy conquering Earth and the Lost Light is exploring space. This all-new series will explore what's happening on Cybertron.

In other Hasbro news, June also sees the release of *Action Man* #1 by **John Barber** and **Paolo Villanelli**. In the U.S., we had G.I. Joe and in the U.K., they had Action Man. You may have already seen a preview of *Action Man* in our *Rom* #0 Free Comic Book Day comic but either way, get ready for an all-new take on the ultimate British special agent.

I'm very happy to report that *Locke & Key* creators, **Joe Hill** and **Gabriel Rodriguez**, have re-united to bring us *Tales From the Darkside*—a four-issue mini-series that re-imagines the classic TV series for an all-new audience. And if you haven't read *Locke & Key*, stop whatever you're doing right now and pick up a copy of the first book. I guarantee you won't be able to put it down.

Library of American Comics has the third volume of *Walt Disney's Donald Duck: The Daily Newspaper Comics* out in June. Over 750 sequential daily strips from 1943 to 1945, written by Bob Karp and beautifully illustrated by Al Taliaferro.

Top Shelf has two books this month—Eddie Campbell's *Bacchus: Omnibus Edition* Vol. 2 and Benjamin Frisch's *The Fun Family*. With Bacchus, Eddie brings us more than 500 pages of the gods and myths of ancient Greece brought to modern life. *Fun Family* is Benjamin's debut graphic novel and it explores the darker side of an artist who draws a comic strip about the quintessential wholesome American family.



I hope you've been enjoying *Wynonna Earp*—Friday nights at 10/9c on Syfy. Season one wraps up on June 24th with some big changes for all of our characters.

Another diverse month for us and I can't wait for next month's column where I'll be telling you all about the return of *Rom*!

SON OF ULTRON